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Articles in Today's Clips

Thursday, June 5, 2008

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Mancelona man allegedly abused male teen

By ART BUKOWSKI

abukowski@record-eagle.com

Thu, Jun 05 2008

MANCELONA -- Authorities charged a Mancelona Township man with multiple counts of criminal sexual conduct after allegations surfaced in a separate sex crime investigation.

Tony Lee Prentice, 40, is charged with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a person 13 to 15 and two counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. Antrim County sheriff's deputies arrested him Wednesday.

Prentice in December allegedly had multiple sexual encounters with a teen male who lived with him in his fifth-wheel trailer, Antrim Detective Sgt. James Janisse said. Janisse wouldn't provide details of the alleged incidents, but described them as "nasty."

"It's a horrible, horrible complaint," he said.

Deputies found out about Prentice's alleged acts as they investigated a complaint against a woman who lived with Prentice, Janisse said. That woman, Terri Lyn Harper, 34, allegedly assaulted the same victim and was charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct in February.

As investigators interviewed the victim for the Harper investigation, he told them about the sexual encounters with Prentice, Janisse said.

Harper previously lived in Kalkaska and lived with Prentice on-and-off for a few months, Janisse said.

Harper in May pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. Her sentencing is set for July 14.

Habitual sexual assaults often can be prevented or stopped by alert family members, friends and citizens, Janisse said.

"If you suspect it, you report it. There's no harm in making a (phone call)," he said. "In every complaint, we can see some situation where people looked ... their eyebrows were raised, and nobody said anything."

Prentice's arraignment is set for today.

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Photos



Tony Prentice

Jun 5, 11:48 AM EDT

Convicted sex offender recaptured 37 years after escaping

By JAMES PRICHARD
Associated Press Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) -- Federal officials say a convicted sex offender who walked away from a prison work detail in the Upper Peninsula in 1970 has been arrested outside his Milwaukee home.

The U.S. Marshals Service in Grand Rapids says 69-year-old Roger Chipman was being held Thursday in a Milwaukee jail pending his return to Michigan.

Chipman was sentenced in 1968 to five to 10 years in prison after being convicted on a charge of taking indecent liberties with a minor.

He escaped in October 1970 while staying at what now is called the Marquette Branch Prison.

A message seeking comment from Chipman was left at the Milwaukee County Jail on Thursday.

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Flint school district rehires more staff with felony records

Posted by Kristin Longley | The Flint Journal June 04, 2008 22:11PM

FLINT, Michigan -- The Flint school board rehired six more employees with felony convictions at its meeting on Wednesday.

Board members would not reveal details about all the employees' positions or their crimes, but said they were not crimes against children or crimes of a sexual nature. The school board last month rehired seven employees with felony convictions, bringing this year's total to 13.

The state Department of Education reports employee records to the school board under a 2006 state law.

The rehired employees are: William Eibergen, Robin Simbler, Sabrina Davis, Jessie Gutter, Omar McNeal and Norman Mize Sr.

Mize, a school safety officer, had a conviction related to substance abuse, board member Paul Jordan said.

Jordan and board member Jennifer Dillard voted against his reinstatement. The other employee rehires were passed unanimously.

Seven other employees with felony records were given their jobs back in May.

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Ypsilanti Township man accused of soliciting 13-year-old girl online

Posted by [anash](#) June 04, 2008 17:02PM



Michael Paul Konesko

A man once suspected of trying to lure girls outside an Ypsilanti middle school is now accused of striking up a relationship with a 13-year-old girl over the Internet.

Police say the latest investigation began after the girl's mother became suspicious and used Internet records to track down the Ypsilanti Township man's real name and prison record.

Michael Paul Konesko, 34, remains in custody on \$250,000 bond for 12 felony charges - two counts of child sexually abusive communication, four counts of possessing child sexually abusive material, and six counts of using a computer to commit a crime.

Authorities say Konesko never met the girl, who lives in Shiawassee County, and posed as a 16-year-old boy while chatting with her online.

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Cmdr. Dave Egeler said police were called after the girl's mother intercepted a love letter from her daughter to Konesko's residence in January.

The letter was addressed to Mike Jones, a name investigators say Konesko used to befriend the teen on a social networking site called Tagged.com. Konesko told the girl he was a 16-year-old boy and even sent her pictures of a teenager he claimed were of him, Egeler said.

The victim's mother, from Lennon, told police she suspected the man communicating with her daughter for months was much older. She used the mailing address on the letter to determine Konesko's real name and called police after finding his prison record on the Internet, Egeler said.

Konesko, who is unemployed, solicited naked pictures of the teen, and those were found on his computer along with numerous messages to her, Egeler said.

Konesko faces additional charges of violating his probation stemming from a 2005 drug conviction, Egeler said. He also has a prior fraud conviction.

In September 2005, Konesko was questioned by deputies after two girls on their way to Ypsilanti's East Middle School saw a man driving a red Chevrolet Cavalier make a sexual gesture toward them, Egeler said.

Contact reporter Art Aisner at
aaaisner@annarbornews.com
or 734-994-6823.

The driver didn't stop or speak to the girls, who immediately told school officials. Deputies stopped the car as it drove by the school a second time.

Konesko was briefly detained but wasn't charged.

"We strongly felt at the time that his intent was to lure the girls in, but didn't have proof that any kind of crime occurred," Egeler said.

Konesko is represented by the county's public defender office. A hearing to determine his competency to stand trial is scheduled for July 30.

Categories: [Crime](#)

Comments

donnamad says...

What a SICK MAN...This shows we need to check on our children in spite of there crys for privacy.This and hundreds of sicko's like him are just lying in wait to lure our children into deception.Hats off to the mom who trusted her instincts...Who know what may have happened to her daughter at the hands of this MONSTER!!

Posted on 06/05/08 at 7:22AM

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June 5, 2008

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Manistee man arrested on CSC charge

Parents with concerns asked to contact police

Kevin Braciszeski - Daily News Staff Writer

Thursday, June 5, 2008

MANISTEE — Police arrested a 44-year-old Manistee man Tuesday night and charged him with two counts of criminal sexual conduct with a child.

Timothy Brian Flessner of 106 Holly Court was arrested for an incident police say occurred on or about May 25 in the city. The victim of the assault is a child, Manistee Police Chief David Bachman said, but he would not give the child's age or say whether it was a boy or a girl.

Police said the victim was familiar with Flessner, but said Flessner did not have custody or guardianship of the child. Bachman also said police don't know at this time if there are additional victims and parents who have concerns are encouraged to contact Manistee Police Det. Sgt. John Riley at 723-2533.

Flessner was lodged in the Manistee County Jail and his bail was set at \$100,000. Police expect he will be arraigned on the charges Friday in Manistee County's 85th District Court.

Police also said Flessner has only lived in Manistee for a short time so investigators will contact other jurisdictions to learn if other cases need to be investigated.

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Dowagiac residents arraigned on drug charges

(From left) Joseph Ryan Douglas Stockwell, 22, Angela Jean Parquette, 27, and Jill Janette Checkley (Klees), 32, all of Dowagiac, were arraigned on drug charges. (Photos provided)

By Beth Boehne

Story Created: Jun 5, 2008 at 11:56 AM EDT

Story Updated: Jun 5, 2008 at 12:13 PM EDT

DOWAGIAC — Three Dowagiac residents were charged with drug-related offenses Wednesday after police raided a home in the 200 block of East High Street.

Four children ranging in ages from 2 to 13 years old also were removed from the home by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Joseph Ryan Douglas Stockwell, 22, and Angela Jean Parquette, 27, both of the East High Street address, were arraigned in Cass County District and Circuit courts for felony possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanors for possession of marijuana and maintaining a drug house.

Their bond was set at \$25,000 each.

A third woman, Jill Janette Checkley (Klees), 32, of Garrett Road, also was arraigned Wednesday in Cass County court on charges of felony possession of methamphetamine and two misdemeanor charges of possession of marijuana and frequenting a drug house.

Her bond was set at \$15,000.

All three remain in the Cass County Jail.

Detectives from the Cass County Drug Enforcement team found numerous items of drug paraphernalia related to meth and marijuana in the home and vehicles.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wsbttv.com/news/local/19565314.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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Judiciary Wary On Child Porn Reporting Bill

Senate Judiciary Committee members cast a skeptical eye on legislation that would make it a misdemeanor for computer technicians not to report child pornography discovered on a client's computer. Chair Wayne **KUIPERS** (R-Holland) said the committee would consider **SB 1328** in the coming weeks, and issued a press release that it "will remain in the Senate Judiciary Committee while technical and legal issues with the legislation are considered."

Under the bill, techs could spend up to 93 days in jail and pay a maximum fine of \$500 for failure to report. The bill does not give computer technicians the ability to search a computer specifically for child pornography; its focus is what techs find during the normal course of their job.

Sen. Gretchen **WHITMER** (D-East Lansing) asked Dan **TOMASZEWSKI** of Computer House Calls, who approached Kuipers about the legislation, if computer techs were required under the law to report videos they may find of a murder. He didn't know. Dan **ADAMS**, a Grand Rapids Police Department detective, didn't think there was such a law.

Whitmer called that "pretty astounding." She wondered if the "little girl who gets on her uncle's computer and finds something" should be a mandatory reporter.

Sen. Bruce **PATTERSON** (R-Canton) echoed her sentiments about **SB 1328**, and wondered why not make the legislation applicable to everyone. He also questioned the need for the legislation.

Adams said that between 40 percent and 73 percent of child porn users molest children themselves, so the GRPD supports the bill as a way to prevent abuse.

"Child pornography is a pervasive and abusive activity that scars a youngster for life," agreed Kuipers. "It is extremely difficult for law enforcement officials to find the individuals responsible for trafficking these images. This legislation would give additional tools to the authorities, in an effort to find a person that looks at child sexual images before moving to physically abuse a child."

Adams also testified that child pornography files were easy to identify, as they usually contain the child's age, sex act and the victim's relationship to the perpetrator.

"There's not a lot of gray area," Adams said. "There's no reason to report if the title doesn't raise a flag."

Patterson doubted that, wondering why people wouldn't just change the titles.

"This ought to be effective," he declared.

Sen. Alan **CROPSEY** (R-DeWitt) wondered whether viruses and so-called "Trojan horses," which take over a computer, could embed child porn unbeknownst to the owner.

"I'm worried that something could get onto my computer from someone who hates me, whether it's for political reasons" or something else, Cropsey said.

Tomaszewski assured him that's very rare and police don't prosecute for fewer than 10 images. Usually cases involve 1,000 or more images.

MIRS Capitol Capsule, Tuesday, June 3, 2008

DHS Employee Guilty of Forgery and Misconduct

A Department of Human Services (DHS) employee today pleaded guilty to charges of forgery and misconduct in office.

Savannah **WOODS**, an Adult Foster Care Consultant and Licensing Consultant for DHS, was sentenced to probation for five years and required to pay \$15,000 in fines. An usual felony forgery conviction could bring a sentence of up to 14 years.

Investigators determined Woods would approach foster care applicants and offer them her "consulting services" for \$4000. These services were duties she was supposed to provide for free on behalf of the State of Michigan.

After collecting the fee, Woods would expedite the applications, getting them approved in less than two months. The process generally takes up to a year.

Woods was able to speed the application process along by forging documents and turning them in for the applicants. Once she received the originals from the applicants, she approved their applications.

"This is dereliction of duty and a terrible burden on good people trying to become foster parents," said Attorney General Mike **COX**. "This sentence sends a signal that this type of behavior will not be tolerated."

Research Finds Wide Disparities in Health Care by Race and Region

By [KEVIN SACK](#)

The New York Times

June 5, 2008

Race and place of residence can have a staggering impact on the course and quality of the medical treatment a patient receives, according to new research showing that blacks with [diabetes](#) or vascular disease are nearly five times more likely than whites to have a leg amputated and that women in Mississippi are far less likely to have [mammograms](#) than those in Maine.

The study, by researchers at Dartmouth, examined [Medicare](#) claims for evidence of racial and geographic disparities and found that on a variety of quality indices, blacks typically were less likely to receive recommended care than whites within a given region. But the most striking disparities were found from place to place.

For instance, the widest racial gaps in mammogram rates within a state were in California and Illinois, with a difference of 12 percentage points between the white rate and the black rate. But the country's lowest rate for blacks — 48 percent in California — was 24 percentage points below the highest rate — 72 percent in Massachusetts. The statistics were for women ages 65 to 69 who received screening in 2004 or 2005.

In all but two states, black diabetics were less likely than whites to receive annual [hemoglobin](#) testing. But blacks in Colorado (66 percent) were far less likely to be screened than those in Massachusetts (88 percent).

The study was commissioned by the nation's largest health-related philanthropy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which on Thursday planned to announce a three-year, \$300 million initiative intended to narrow health care disparities across lines of race and geography. Officials said it would be the largest effort to improve health care quality ever undertaken by a charity in the United States.

The foundation hopes to better understand and confront the causes of those regional variations by focusing its spending on 14 regions, like the city of Memphis and the state of Wisconsin.

Dr. Bruce Siegel, the [George Washington University](#) professor who will direct the program, said one community might use its grant money to study how long it takes [hospitals](#) to move [heart attack](#) patients from emergency room to catheterization laboratory. Others might work to coordinate electronic record-keeping or to provide patients with better information about taking medications after discharge.

“In my book,” Dr. Siegel said, “health care is local, just like politics, so you’re going to see a lot of differences in what communities do.”

That point is reinforced time and again in the new research conducted by the Dartmouth Atlas Project of the college’s Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, which has used Medicare data to document health care disparities over the last two decades. It found substantial variation in the proportion of Medicare beneficiaries who had been seen in a two-year period by a primary care physician, ranging from 86 percent in Nebraska and South Dakota to 65 percent in New Jersey. It found far higher rates of unnecessary hospitalizations in Hawaii, Utah and Washington than in Kentucky, Louisiana and West Virginia.

Disparities in the rate of leg amputations were particularly stark. The rate for blacks was about 6 per 1,000 in Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina, but less than 2 per 1,000 in Colorado and Nevada. The rates for whites in the two Southern states were much lower, about 1.3 per 1,000, but were still more than double the rates for whites in the two Western states.

Such variations may be partly explained by regional differences in education and poverty levels, but researchers increasingly believe that variations in medical practice and spending also are factors.

“In U.S. health care, it’s not only who you are that matters; it’s also where you live,” wrote the study’s authors, led by Dr. Elliott S. Fisher.

Dr. John R. Lumpkin, senior vice president of the foundation, said that more than a third of the \$300 million would be spent to hire national experts to help regional coalitions tailor their quality improvement plans. The remainder of the money will be devoted to research, evaluation and the promotion of quality standards.

“We want to build a template in each of these communities that will teach America how to improve health care quality in a dramatic way,” Dr. Lumpkin said.

The areas selected for the grants are Cincinnati; Cleveland; Detroit; Humboldt County, Calif.; Kansas City, Mo.; Maine; Memphis; Minnesota; Seattle; south central Pennsylvania; **western Michigan**; western New York; Willamette Valley in Oregon; and Wisconsin.

The foundation’s endowment, now about \$10 billion, was financed originally from the wealth of its namesake, who died in 1968 after building Johnson & Johnson into one of the world’s largest sellers of health and medical products. The group has been a major force in curbing [tobacco use](#), and has more recently turned its attention to [obesity](#), announcing a five-year, \$500 million effort on that front last year.

June 4, 2008

COURT: JUDGES CAN'T EXCUSE CHILD SUPPORT ARREARAGES

A law that allows judges to dismiss monetary judgments seemingly would apply to cases of child support arrearage, appellate judges said on Wednesday, except that another law that says child support arrearages can't be modified fits more closely with Legislative intent, therefore is the controlling statute.

This is the first time the Court of Appeals has directly addressed whether the court judgment rule allows a court to grant a party relief from a support order by retroactively modifying court ordered support.

The published opinion (*Malone v. Malone*, [COA docket No. 272327](#)) reversed a trial court's decision to relieve Roy Malone of more than \$5,600 in back support.

Judges said there is an irreconcilable conflict between the court relief judgment rule, which allows dismissal of debt under several circumstances, and the child support modification law, which only allows relief in very narrow circumstances.

In this case, the court reversed the father's arrearages because he had been paying child support to his ex-wife for more than two years while their child lived with him.

Although the father hadn't filed for a change of custody or child support calculation, the juvenile court that placed the child in the father's custody should have also changed the support order and custody, the trial court said, opining that since the failure to change the order was a mistake of the court, it should be able to clear up its own error.

However, appellate judges said the only arrearages the father was entitled to a refund of were those from payments he made after he filed for a change of custody, pursuant to child support law.

"We further conclude that (child support law) was drafted to reflect the public policy of ensuring the enforceability of support orders for the protection of children," said the opinion written by Judge Brian Zahra and signed by Judges Michael Talbot and Patrick Meter. "Therefore, we conclude (the child support law) represents a clear expression of Legislative

policy on a substantive matter and, as a result, (the court relief judgment rule) must give way to (child support law)."

Because judges couldn't ascertain the exact amount the Mr. Malone paid to his ex-wife after he filed for a change of custody, the court reversed the order to cancel his arrearages but also remanded the case back to the lower court to assess how much he should be credited for payments made after he filed for custody.



American Indians eye work options at event

By Melissa Domsic

mdomsic@record-eagle.com

Thu, Jun 05 2008

TRAVERSE CITY -- Just days after she graduated from Suttons Bay High School, Elaina Leasureaux began preparing for her post-college professional life.

She did so by spending Wednesday afternoon at the Society of American Indian Government Employees' national training conference, held this week in Acme Township at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, owned and operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Leasureaux, 18, a Grand Traverse Band member, said she always wanted to be a veterinarian, but the conference opened her eyes to a variety of opportunities in government work.

"I've seen a lot of different things that are out there," she said. "It's really interesting."

The event included a career fair and personal, cultural and professional development sessions.

Government means more than just politicians; it's the nation's largest employer, said Danny Garceau, SAIGE board member and conference chairman.

But there were too few American Indians in government positions for a long time, so SAIGE formed to unite them and encourage more to join the government workforce, said Garceau, a retired National Guardsman from Ishpeming.

"By incorporating more Indians in government, it give us more of a say and ownership of those decisions being made," he said.

Lori Windle had never heard of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement when as a graduate student she received a note about a job opening. She started at the Denver office as a video editor intern and has been there for 18 years.

"A lot of people are completely unaware of what there might be in federal government work," said Windle, SAIGE board secretary.

She added that many government agencies have a baby-boomer workforce nearing retirement, so new recruits are needed.

Dannielle Zwang is one of those students eager for a full-time government gig.

"Many times I think that kids just have no idea where to get started right after college, and coming to this conference they get to meet people who have worked in the government for many years and people who have connections, people who know how to get employment," said Zwang, a senior at Boise State University. She works part-time at the Bureau of Land Management and hopes to continue there after graduation.

Her suggestions for young job seekers: "Be aggressive; don't sit and wait for somebody to come and talk to you about employment," she said. "Go out and find out who's in your community that could be a mentor for you and ask them, 'how can I get my foot in the door, what advice could you offer me?'"

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Photos



American Indian Hoest Heap Of Birds, of Oklahoma, talks to Robin Slate, left, and Jo-Ann Brant about employment possibilities with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the Society of American Indian Government Employees career fair at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.

Tax volunteers made difference for needy families

Posted by [llupo](#) June 05, 2008 04:38AM

MUSKEGON COUNTY -- The checks are in the mail.

More than 1,100 low- to moderate-income individuals and families in Muskegon County are receiving "significant" state and federal tax credits this year because of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit offered through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Goodwill Workforce Development Director Thomas Griffin, who headed one of several teams of volunteer tax preparers, reports that 1,110 tax returns for 2007 were prepared, returning \$1,040,660 to the community. That figure compares to 574 tax returns for 2006 with \$610,613 in tax returns.

The free income tax preparations were done by 36 volunteers from a coalition of Muskegon County human resource agencies including Goodwill, Volunteer Muskegon, Muskegon-Oceana Community Partnership, Community enCompass (former Bethany Housing Ministries and Sacred Suds), Muskegon County Department of Human Services and Operation Weed and Seed. Volunteers were required to be trained as an IRS-certified preparer and pass a certification test.

Griffin said "volunteers are key" to the program's success.

"The more skilled volunteers we have, the more people we can serve," he said.

Categories: [Muskegon County](#)

Comments

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Okemos girl wants graduation gifts to go to charity

DEREK WALLBANK • LANSING STATE JOURNAL • JUNE 5, 2008 • FROM LANSING STATE JOURNAL

OKEMOS - For many high school graduates, open houses are a tradition that lets them celebrate a milestone with family and friends - and cash in at the same time.

Congratulatory checks and cash often add up to large sums of money, from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

But Okemos graduate Allison Lowe won't see a single cent from her open house held Friday - she's asked that checks in her name go to the Children's Tumor Foundation instead.

"I just figured, why not? These people need the money more than I do. I mean they'll use it better and help more people with it," Lowe said.

So far, 25 donors have given a total of \$950 in Lowe's name, officials with the Children's Tumor Foundation said.

"It is unique for someone as young as Allison to show the generosity and selflessness she has displayed," said Executive Director George Orfanakos.

The 18-year-old Lowe was diagnosed at age 9 with neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow along nerves, often along the spine or near the brain.

About one in 3,000 children has or will develop the most common strain of neurofibromatosis, known as von Recklinghausen NF, foundation officials said. That strain often causes bone deformation and spine curvature.

In Lowe's case, she developed severe scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, and required surgery that removed seven discs in her upper spine, replacing them with bone from her ribs and hip.

Lowe said she remembers getting picked on both before and after the surgery, emotional scars that still linger almost a decade later.

After many years of physical therapy, Lowe has made a "100 percent" recovery, her mother Shelley Lowe said.

"She's just a giving person," Shelley Lowe said, "and I'm just so proud of her."

Contact Derek Wallbank at 267-1301 or [dwallbank @lsj.com](mailto:dwallbank@lsj.com).

Man to ride, raise funds in son's honor

Father's journey across nation begins July 7 - to last 40 days

BOB GROSS • SPECIAL TO THE STATE JOURNAL • JUNE 5, 2008 • FROM LANSING STATE JOURNAL

COLUMBUS TWP. - Bob Emmi has done some unusual things on a motorcycle in 41 years of riding.

He once rode from Columbus Township to Sturgis, S.D., with a one-hour nap on a picnic table.

That - and hitting a deer in Minnesota on another trip to the South Dakota biker destination that put him in the hospital for 17 hours - earned the truck driver the nickname "Sturgis Bob."

He has another long trip coming. Emmi, 57, plans to ride his Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail Classic from Columbus Township through every capital in the lower 48 states to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

"I lost my son five years ago, on January 16, 2003," Emmi said. "This being the fifth year, I just wanted to do something, so I'm hoping to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society."

Columbus to Columbus

Emmi will start his long ride on July 7 with a Columbus to Columbus leg - from Columbus Township to Columbus, Ohio. He plans to finish about 40 days later with a ride through Lansing.

He said he won't be stopping to shake hands or make speeches.

"I'm going to be riding expeditiously through the 48 capitals of the contiguous United States," he said.

"I'm pretty much going to be blowing through them."

Emmi's son, Bobby, was 28 when he died in 2003, his father said.

"He slugged it out with leukemia for four and a half years," he said.

"It's a touching story. He wanted to be a police officer, so while he was going through his protocol of typical leukemia treatments, radiation and so forth, he was going to college."

Bobby Emmi, who had served in the National Guard, earned a degree in law enforcement.

He was accepted into the Macomb Police Academy, but was unable to attend because he needed major surgery to repair hip joints that had deteriorated because of the steroids used to treat his leukemia.

'Getting on' with life

"His story was one of accepting what God gave him and paying his dues and getting on with his life," Emmi said.

"That was a phrase he used a lot: 'Now I'm going to get on with my life,' but something else always slammed him back down," he said.

Emmi also has a daughter, Vicki, 31, who is a teacher in Ferndale. He wants people to monitor him on his journey through his Web site, www.sturgisbobsnationalride.com.

"I hope to raise a substantial amount for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society," he said. "Hopefully by promoting it through the biker motorcycle community, it will get a lot of interest."

"Of course, I want people to donate, but I want them to keep monitoring, keep looking, see where I am at."

While his Web site has an itinerary, it is more a guide than something set in stone, Emmi said.

"I'm kind of winging it as far as where I am going to be sleeping," he said. "I'm going to be tenting it, I hope, most of the way."

For a cause

Emmi has a request for everyone who visits his Web site or who donates to the cause.

"What I would like for the general public is to pass the word to anybody they know; they don't necessarily have to be motorcycle riders," he said. "Tell them I am doing this for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society."

Bob Gross is a reporter for the Port Huron Times-Herald.